

**California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley  
Stanislaus County Public Forum  
Turlock, CA – June 8, 2006**

**Economic Work Group Panel**

Jan Roberts – Frito Lay

- What is your assessment of the adopted scopes of work for the work groups?
  - The Economic Development Work Group should be comprised of local private industries
  - The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) should work with all the work groups to integrate all the ideas and strengthen the economic development opportunities
  - Consolidate and streamline incentive programs for business
    - It will help create new business opportunities for the San Joaquin Valley (Valley)
- What projects and programs will best utilize public dollars?
  - Transportation dollars should fund highway expansions, and a high speed rail system
  - Quality of life amenities that will attract and keep a young workforce
- What statutory changes would you recommend?
  - Streamline redundant regulations and policies that can impede the private sector from operating efficiently
  - Provide incentives for those companies that provide stimulus and growth to the area
- The top three priorities to the Valley:
  - Transportation
  - Incentives to industries that provide economic vitality to the Valley
  - Increase the visibility of success and accomplishments the Valley has to offer
- What is the best structure of leadership for the Partnership to follow?
  - Continue forums such as the Partnership meetings
  - Task public and private groups from all areas to drive each of the action proposals
  - Collaborate and communicate all ideas to maintain the Partnership

George Boodrookas – Dean, Community & Economic Development, Modesto Junior College

- The scope of work for the work group should focus on the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium
- There should be a plan for a regional strategic plan for higher education
- What projects will best utilize public dollars?
  - Fully fund and implement the Talent Strategies associated with the Department of Labor WIRED proposal
  - Based on the Stanislaus County Economic Development and Workforce Alliance encourage and provide incentives for formal cooperation between workforce and economic development
  - Implement an industry cluster approach to workforce development

- Implement a standardized assessment system based on WorkKeys
  - Align career and technical education with targeted industries
  - Fund and implement a region-wide business intelligence and data management tool
- What statutory changes would you recommend?
  - Remove WIA system tracking requirements allowing for more participation among training opportunities at a lower cost per participant
  - Alter the funding formula for vocational training programs in the California Community College system
- The top three priorities for the Valley:
  - Develop a comprehensive, coordinated, demand-driven, customer-focused economic and workforce development system
  - Establish the Valley as the state's leading producer of a full spectrum of health services professional from entry level to physicians
  - Continue the momentum of the Partnership past November
- What is the best plan for collaboration and cooperation?
  - Capitalize on the momentum of the Partnership and continue the cross agency and business collaborative to craft an organizational structure to provide ongoing guidance

Vince Harris – Executive Director Stanislaus COG

- What is your assessment of the scope of work for the work groups?
  - The work scopes address many of the major issues facing the Valley
  - The priorities seem to represent an appropriate approach for implementation by targeting economic improvement at the most basic level
- What projects will best utilize public tax dollars?
  - Improving Highway 99 is the best way to spend tax dollars
- What statutory recommendations would you make?
  - Pass a one half percent sales tax for transportation improvements
    - It will provide funds for local streets and road maintenance
- The top three priorities for the Valley:
  - Pass the half percent sales tax for transportation programs
  - Maximize the use of sales tax revenues such that each transportation project is delivered on schedule
  - Develop and maintain a Regional Transportation Plan that protects the environment while maintaining local roads
- What is the best plan for collaboration and cooperation?
  - Relating to transportation, collaboration between the Valley officials and civic leaders is crucial
  - The 8 Valley Councils of Governments should collaborate often

## **Community Panel**

Chris King – Stanislaus County of Education

- What is your assessment of the scope of work for the k-12?
  - Overall the scope is reflective of the problems
  - The number one priority should be to engage the eight county superintendents of education around a set of state strategies to help improve low performing schools
  - Success will come if there is an effective and coordinated system of action
- What projects will best utilize public dollars?
  - Preparing students to attend college or technical school
  - Funding to increase career/technical education
- What statutory changes will improve the economic well-being of the Valley?
  - Relief from restrictive collective bargaining agreements such as contract language that restricts after school meetings, transfer policies, and limitations on classroom observations
- The top three priorities for the Valley:
  - Increase college going rates
  - Provide academic oversight
  - Reduce dropouts

Keith Boggs – Deputy Executive Officer – Economic Development, Stanislaus

- What is your assessment of the adopted scopes of work?
  - The technology work group presents an innovative vision that, if implemented, would increase utilization of technology and advanced communication services, particularly within very rural and low income populations
- What projects will best utilize public dollars?
  - Requesting the California Emerging Technology Fund to adopt outreach and education components to help close the digital divide
  - Legislation addressing the needs of rural areas in the Valley that are often in close proximity to urban /suburban development
  - Recognizing that there is no one technology solution
  - Develop a primer for use by local elected officials and their staff to better identify technology access
- What statutory changes will improve the economic well-being of the Valley?
  - Promote changes in the existing Rural Telecommunications Infrastructure Grants Program (RTIGP)
- The top three priorities for the Valley:
  - Continuing dialogue by and between the valley communities – exploring best practice outreach and technology training successes
  - Promote technology based community education efforts to teach rural Valley residents the possibilities and advantages of technology
  - Continue to bring the rates for high-speed access down, so more people can access the technology
- What organizational structure would you recommend?
  - Use the Great Valley Center to help promote the Partnerships plan

#### Chief Roy Wasden – Modesto PD

- What is your assessment of the adopted scopes of work?
  - The work should include why the Valley is plagued with high dropout rates, violent crimes and gangs
  - Find solutions or answers to drug addiction
- What projects will best utilize public dollars?
  - Focus on programs that deal with gangs, dropouts and addiction
- What statutory changes will improve the economic well-being of the Valley?
  - Focus on laws that affect drug users – if the addicts won't go to treatment, they need to be incarcerated
- The top three priorities for the Valley:
  - Treatment for people addicted to substances
  - Provide adequate resources and facilities to help those involved in crime
  - Improvement of educational facilities and programs
- What organizational structure would you recommend?
  - One that continually communicates and collaborates on solutions to the Valley's problems

#### Carolina Bernal – Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

- What is your assessment of the adopted scopes of work?
  - The Valley has many problems and it remains to be seen if the work groups cover all the issues
- What projects best utilize public dollars?
  - The Hispanic Chamber is involved with the following projects and programs: Micro Loan, Monterrey Task Force, Nursing Project, Noche De Becas, Sister City Aguascalientes, Becoming Computer Literate, Chamber University, Growing an Entrepreneurial Spirit
- What statutory changes do you recommend?
  - Change in sales tax for transportation
  - Expand the working visa's to include medical professionals
  - Quality of education is not equal at all schools – especially low income areas
  - Equalize tax burdens for big and small businesses
- The top three priorities for the Valley:
  - Education
  - Health services
  - Economic development and transportation
- What organizational structure would you recommend?
  - The group needs to be reflective of the demographics of Stanislaus County
  - Identify local leaders who will bring the concerns and practical solutions of the local neighborhood

#### Rev. Michael Douglass – Advancing Vibrant Communities

- Use faith based community and community partnerships to provide a conduit for information to and from groups in need

## **Business Panel**

### Mitch Etchebarne – Farm Bureau

- Land Use, Agriculture and Housing
  - Housing for the Bay Area is taking up agricultural land
- Water Quality, Supply and Reliability
  - Water quality must be balanced for urban and agricultural living
  - Surface water storage needs to continue to the lead water issue
- Air Quality
  - Agricultural Conservation Management Plans have been successful and need to be recognized
  - There needs to be funding for alternative disposal of agricultural waste because of the agricultural burning ban
  - Diesel motor conversion to tier III engines needs to continue and funded through the Carl Moyer Program
- Education is paramount for economic development
  - Primary schools need to emphasize this importance

### Kevin Stone – Building Industry of California

- Economic Development
  - Land should be entitled, partially developed and ready to go
  - Match vocational training and education to the industries of the area
- Transportation
  - It is a key issue to the development of the Valley
  - The Valley must speak with one voice on the issue
- Land Use, Agriculture and Housing
  - They fully support the proposed initiatives outlined by the work group
- Technology and Advanced Telecommunications
  - They fully support the proposed initiatives outlined by the work group

### Jan Ennenga – Manufacturers Council

- Air Quality and Environmental Protection
  - Rather than requiring companies to continue to retrofit to control emissions, allow companies to find alternative sources for emissions control
  - Retrofitting old systems becomes expensive and ineffective
  - The standard for emission control should be established and the company should have the flexibility and freedom to establish their own emission control standards
  - The Manufacturers Council agrees with supports the Air Quality Work Group's report
  - Use incentives to encourage businesses to comply with regulations

### Pat Riddle – Food Processing Industry

- Water regulations need to be reevaluated
  - This can be done through partnerships between the State and Industry
  - There are more than agricultural groups using the water
    - It is being used by food processing plants and high tech firms

- Over restriction of water regulations will burden these industries
  - It will also further burden the agricultural industry
    - An industry that is being threatened by outside competitors